

CHAPTER 90

A NEW ENCOUNTER

A 10-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
27-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

*STROLLING
AROUND
KITA-KARUIZAWA,
DIGITAL CAMERA
IN HAND...*



A SIGH THAT DOESN'T GO
WITH THE SUNNY SKY...



KITA-
KARUI-
ZAWA,
HUH?

AW,
MAN...



SIGH...

IT'S NICE
AND COOL,
SO LIVING
HERE IS COMFORT-
ABLE, BUT...





A
FOREIGN
DOG

A GIRL
WITH
WHITE
HAIR?



I CAN'T
SPEAK
ENGLISH.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?



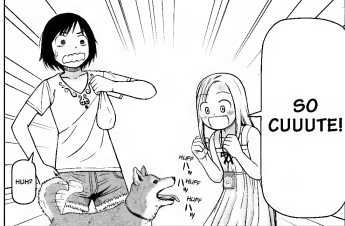
E E E E K I

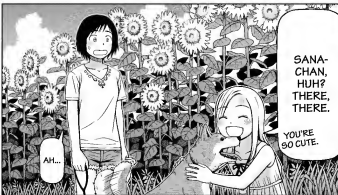


WHOA,
SHE'S
COMING
THIS
WAY!

ス
ク
ス
ク
STEP

ス
ク
ス
ク
STEP



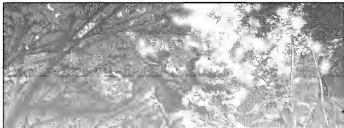






















OOH...

THE
SUNSET IS
REALLY
PRETTY
FROM
HERE.



SEE?

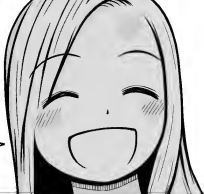
YEAH,
IT IS
PRETTY...



I THINK
IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE I'VE
LOOKED
AT A
SUNSET
THIS
CAREFULLY.

COME
TO
THINK
OF IT.

YOU CAN
SEE IT
WHENEVER
THE
WEATHER
IS NICE.



RIGHT...



...



ISNT
KITA-
KARUI-
ZAWA

A
GREAT
PLACE?



YES...

YOU
TOOK ME
AROUND
TO SO
MANY
PLACES.

THANKS
FOR
TODAY.

北郷井沢
KITAHOMIYAZAWA

YEAH

DO YOU
FEEL
BETTER
NOW?



MY
DOG'S
NAME IS
MARU.

MY
NAME
IS
SANA.

NINA'S DEFINITELY A LOCAL KID NOW...

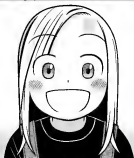
CHAPTER 91

SHUTARO AND TOMOE'S FATHER

A BEAUTIFUL
GIRL IN
AN APRON
GLANCES
BEHIND HER
SHOULDER!



TODAY, AT TOMOE'S HOUSE...



WOW!

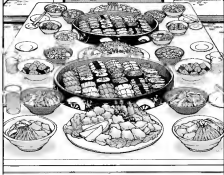


SO
MUCH
FOOD...









SHUTARO-
KUN.



AH.

HUH?



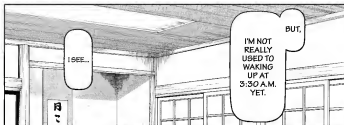
PLEASE,
ALLOW ME
TO POUR
YOU SOME
TOO.

HM.



THANK
YOU.











...IS SOME-
ONE VERY
IMPORTANT
TO ME.

THERE'S
NO DOUBT
THAT
TOMOE...



I'M...

REALLY
NOT
SURE.



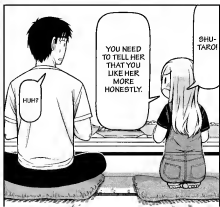
ARE
YOU

GOING
TO BE
DATING
IN THE
FUTURE?



SAYING
IT LIKE
AN
ADULT
THERE
ISN'T
GOOD.

NINA,
PLEASE
BE
QUIET
FOR A
BIT...



HUH?

YOU NEED
TO TELL
HER
THAT YOU
LIKE HER
MORE
HONESTLY.

SHU-
TARO!















BEING AN ADULT IS DIFFICULT IN A LOT OF WAYS.

CHAPTER 92

FAVORITE TYPE

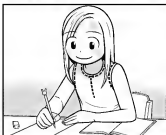
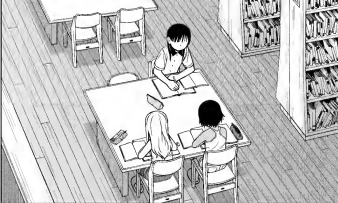
A 11-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
28-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!



DO YOU
LIKE GIRLS
WITH
GLASSES?

THE THREE GIRLS MEET IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY...











ABOUT
KITA-
KARUIZAWA?

NINA WANTS
TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
KITA-
KARUIZAWA.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
YOUR
INDEPEND-
ENT
STUDY
PROJECT
ON?



NINA
PLANS
TO GO TO
ONOSH-
DASHI
PARK
SOON,
TOO.

TO TAKE
LOTS OF
PICTURES
OF KITA-
KARUIZAWA.

NINA IS
USING
THE
DIGITAL
CAMERA
THAT
TOMOE
GOT FOR
HER.



UM...

LIKE THE
HISTORY OF
THE TOWN
AND SPECIAL
THINGS
ABOUT THE
AREA.

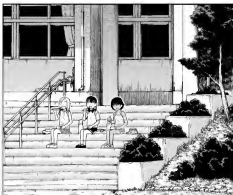


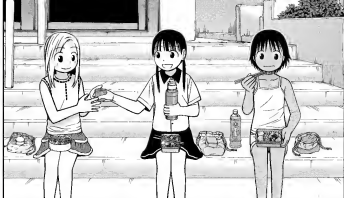
I HAVEN'T
EVEN
TOUCHED
MINE YET.

YOU'RE
REALLY
FAR ALONG
ON YOUR
INDEPEND-
ENT
STUDY
PROJECT.
TOO!

WHAT
THE
HECK?

YOU'RE
PRETTY
SERIOUS
ABOUT
THIS...







AH, THE
GREETING
THEY DO
WHEN THEY
MEET THEIR
SIGNIFI-
CANT
OTHER'S
DADI

YOU
MEAN LIKE
WHEN THE
GUY ASKS
THE DAD
IF HE CAN
HAVE HIS
DAUGHTER'S
HAND IN
MARRIAGE?



SHUTARO
ISNT
JOBLESS
RIGHT
NOW

HE'S
HELPING
OUT IN
TOMOE'S
FIELDS.

HUH...

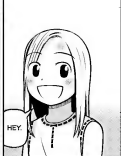


I WONDER
IF TOMOE-
SAN'S DAD
ACTUALLY
SAID IT
WAS OKAY
OF THEM
TO GET
MARRIED.

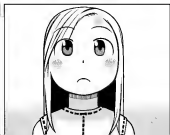
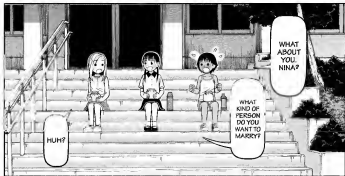
BUT

SO I
GUESS
THOSE
TWO
WERE
REALLY
GOING
OUT.

ESPECIALLY
SINCE
SHUTARO-
SAN
DIDNT
HAVE A
JOB







...



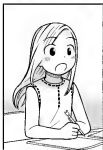
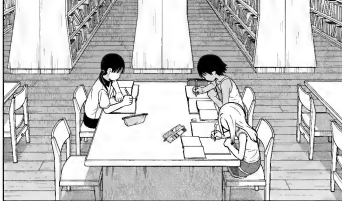
...

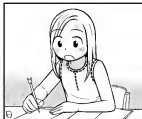


WHAT?

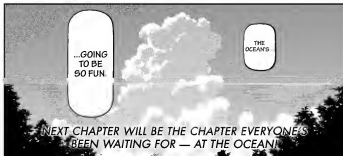
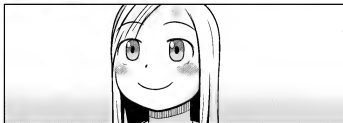
NO
FAIR!











CHAPTER 93

EVERYONE
GOES
TO THE
OCEAN

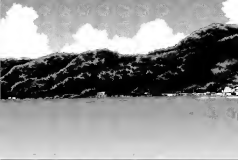
A 11-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
28-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!



SHOWING
OFF OUR
BATHING
SUITS!

AFTER A LONG WALK, WE'VE FINALLY
MADE IT TO THE OCEAN!









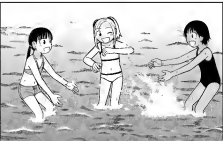
























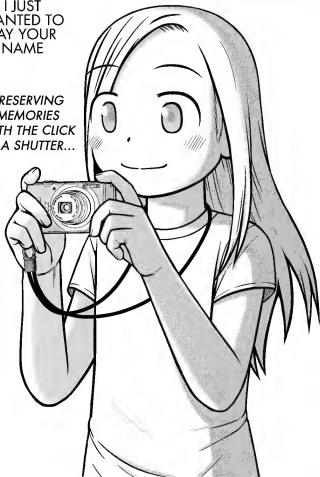
NEXT TIME, EVERYONE'S HAVING A SLEEPOVER!

CHAPTER 94

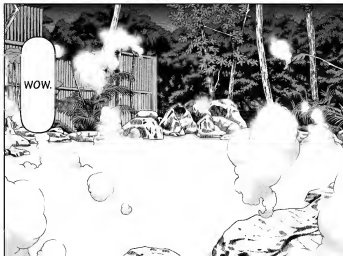
A 11-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
28-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

I JUST
WANTED TO
SAY YOUR
NAME

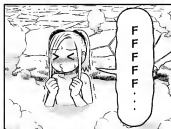
PRESERVING
MEMORIES
WITH THE CLICK
OF A SHUTTER...

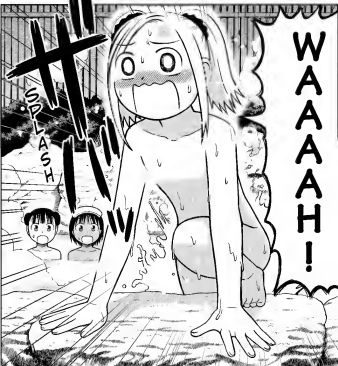
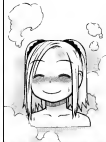
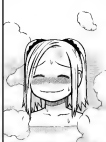


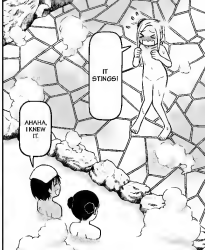
A HUGE HOTEL AND AMAZING HOT SPRINGS!
THEIR ENJOYMENT OF THE OCEAN CONTINUES...









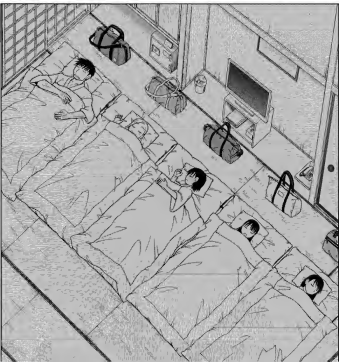


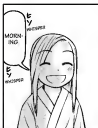


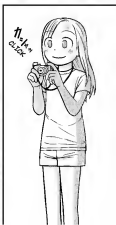




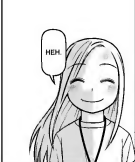






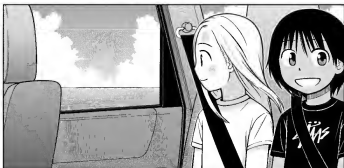












...TO THE
OCEAN
AGAIN
SOMEDAY.

LET'S
GO...

IT'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU, NINA.

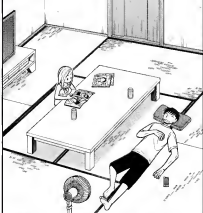
CHAPTER 95

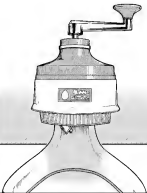
A 11-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
28-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!

INSPIRED SHAVED ICE

THERE
ARE SO
MANY
DIFFERENT
KINDS,
I DON'T
KNOW
WHICH
ONE TO
PICK!

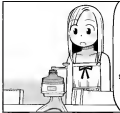






THIS
TAKES
ME
BACK.

HEY,
IT'S THE
SHAVED
ICE
MACHINE.



I DON'T
THINK IT'S
BROKEN,
SO WE CAN
PROBABLY
STILL USE IT.



NINA
WANTS
TO EAT
SHAVED
ICE.

SHU-
TARO...

LET'S
MAKE
SOME,
THEN.

OKAY.



—WOULD
MAKE
TONS OF
SHAVED
ICE WITH
THIS

IN THE
SUMMER,
NEE-CHAN.

I FOUND
IT WHEN
I WAS
CLEANING
OUT THE
SHED.

IT
LOOKS
SO
GOOD!

WELL,

THIS
SHOULD
DO IT.

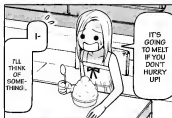
WHAT
KIND OF
SYRUP
SHOULD
WE USE?

CAN
NINA
EAT IT?

...WANTS
STRAW-
BERRY
FLAVOR.

NINA...

YEAH.





44

KNOW!



H4H3

THAT
MIGHT
BE A
GOOD
IDEA.



冷やせばいい

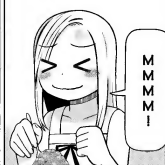
IM
GOING
TO MAKE
IT LIKE A
SYRUP

WE'RE
NOT
GOING
TO PUT
THE
JAM
ON IT.

NO.

BY
ADDING
HOT
WATER
AND
SUGAR













THIS IS NOTHING.

THAT'S BECAUSE FINNISH PEOPLE EAT MORE ICE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

REALLY?



MUNCH
はっはっ

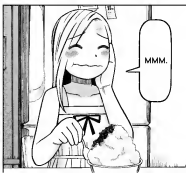


FIRST, LET'S TRY BLUE-BERRY.

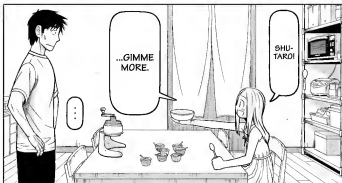


IT'S SO RICH AND DELICIOUS.

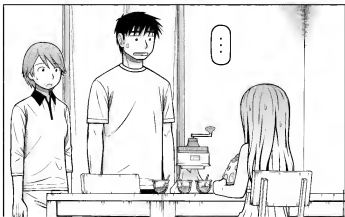
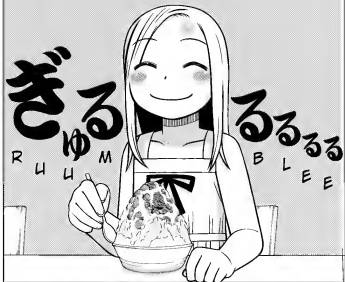
つぶつぶも入ってる
THERE ARE LITTLE BERRY BITS, TOO.



MMM.











SEE?



BY THE WAY,

WE HAVE THIS, TOO.



WHAT?

THIS IS A FAMOUS BRAND IN KAKU-ZAWA.

AH, PUDDING JAM.

PUDDING JAM?



NINA...

THAT'S ENOUGH.



SHUTARD,

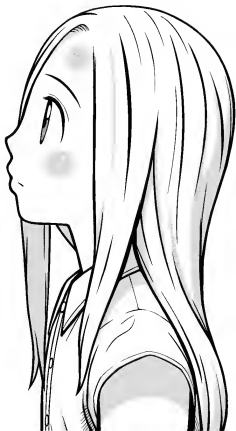
COULD YOU MAKE MORE SHAVED ICE?

EVEN THOUGH IT'S DELICIOUS, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T EAT TOO MUCH!

CHAPTER 96

DREAMS AND READINESS

*IF WE CAN
JUST KEEP
LOOKING
AHEAD...*



A SCREAM IN THE MIDDLE OF A
COOL NIGHT IN KITA-KARUI













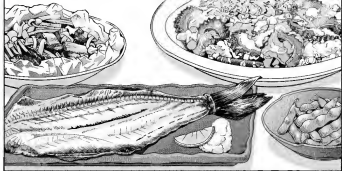
IF YOU AND TOMOE GO OUT, AND GET MARRIED.

SIGH...

は











...SO WHEN
WE WERE
KIDS, IT WAS
BASICALLY
DECIDED
THAT WE'D
TAKE OVER
OUR FARMS.

TSUKAMOTO
AND I ARE
BOTH THE
OLDEST...



WE'VE
ALREADY
COME TO
TERMS
WITH THE
FACT THAT
WE'LL BE
LIVING
HERE

SO
BASICALLY...



SO YOU
WENT TO
TOKYO,
AND A LOT
HAPPENED.

THEN,
YOU
CAME
BACK
HERE...

YOU'VE
ALWAYS
HAD YOUR
SIGHTS
ON LIVING
OUTSIDE
OF HERE.

BUT
YOUR
FAMILY
DOESN'T
HAVE A
FARM...





AND
HONESTLY,
IT'S PRETTY
FUN.

I'M
HELPING
OUT ON
TOMOE'S
FARM
RIGHT
NOW...



JUST
LIKE
SEKIYA
SAID,

I'M
NOT
SURE
WHAT
TO DO...



...AND
TO LIVE
THE
REST OF
MY
LIFE
HERE.

SO I'M
STARTING TO
THINK THAT
IT MIGHT BE
OKAY TO
JUST SETTLE
DOWN...



I JUST
WANT A
LITTLE
MORE
TIME TO
THINK.

I JUST
WANT...



BUT...





DO YOU
MIND
IF WE
STOP BY
A CONVE-
NIENCE
STORE?

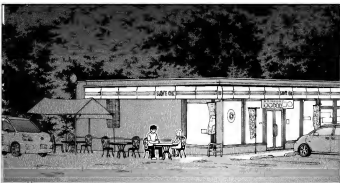
SURE



I THINK I
MIGHT'VE
DRANK
TOO MUCH
TONIGHT.

SHU-
TARO,

YOU'RE
STUM-
BLING...



WHY...



SHUTARO
X X X





NINA
DIDN'T
REALLY
UNDER-
STAND
EVERY-
THING
YOU
SAID...



NO

NINA
LOVES
THE
ATMO-
SPHERE OF
IZAKAYAS.

WAS IT
BORING?



OH...

BORING.



BUT
NINA
DOESN'T
WANT

YOU
TO GIVE
UP ON
YOUR
DREAMS.





NINA'S WORDS AND THE PRETTY CAN SONG WILL LIGHTEN HIS HEART!

CHAPTER 97

A HIGH SCHOOL GIRL
AND AN ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL GIRL

AN 11-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
28-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!



AN ENERGETIC
SMILE AND A
SMILEY FACE!

IT'S FLASHY BOTH INSIDE AND OUT,
AND HAS PLENTY OF UNIQUE ITEMS!



I DIDN'T
KNOW
THERE
WAS A
PLACE
LIKE THIS
IN KITA-
KARUGAWA...

THIS
ISN'T
BAD.

HUH...





AND
THEY'RE
NOT
REALLY
MY
THING...

BUT
AMERICAN
THINGS
ARE
MORE FOR
GUYS...



UM...

UM...

I JUST
WANTED
TO SEE
WHAT
KIND OF
SHOP
THIS
WAS.

UM,

LOOKING
FOR
ANYTHING
SPECIFIC



RIGHT...



THERE'S
PLENTY OF
INTEREST-
ING STUFF,
HUNT



WELCOME.









AND, I GOT
TO BUY
COLA IN A
GLASS
BOTTLE,
WHICH IS
PRETTY
RARE.

AHH...
は
ー



GLUG
GLUG
GLUG

...ALL THE
GREAT
THINGS
OF KITA-
KARUJI
THAT
ONE TIME.

I NEED
TO THANK
THE GIRL
WHO
TOLD ME
ABOUT...

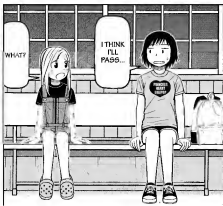
HEHE...

BUT I
PROBABLY
WON'T RUN
INTO HER
AGAIN...

NINA-
CHAN,
HUH...







YAY!

IT'S MY
TREAT, AS
THANKS
FOR THE
OTHER
DAY.

HUH?

THEN LET'S
GET SOME
ICE CREAM
FROM THAT
SHOP OVER
THERE
AND EAT IT
TOGETHER.







THAT'D
NOT
QUITE IT, EITHER...

HUH?

SS



AH!

WHEN
NINA WENT
TO AKIBA,
SHE WENT
TO A SHOP
THAT HAD
A LOT OF
ANIME MERCHAN-
DISE!

LIKE A
PLACE
THAT
HAD A
LOT OF
CUTE
STUFF.



YUP.

NINA WENT
WITH
SHUTARO
LAST YEAR.

IT WAS A
LOT OF FUN.

SO YOU'VE
BEEN TO
AKIHABARA?



HARA-
JUKU?



C'MON,
YOU'RE
A GIRL,
SO YOU
SHOULD
GO TO
HARA-
JUKU.

SHUTARO?
IS THAT
HER DAD?



BASICALLY
IT'S A
MECCA FOR
HIGH SCHOOL
GIRLS.

?

UM... LIKE
TAKESHITA
STREET,
LAPORME,
GITTILAND...

WHAT'S AT
HARAJUKU?



UM...

IT MIGHT
JUST BE
FASTER
TO SHOW
YOU
ON MY
SMART-
PHONE.



SO
CUTE!



THERE'S STUFF
LIKE THIS

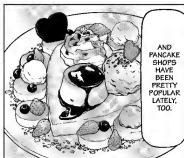




THERE
ARE A LOT OF
GIRLS
WHO LOOK
LIKE THIS.



AND
STUFF
LIKE THIS.



AND
PANCAKE
SHOPS
HAVE
BEEN
PRETTY
POPULAR
LATELY,
TOO.



FOR
FOOD,
THERE
ARE
CREPE
SHOPS...

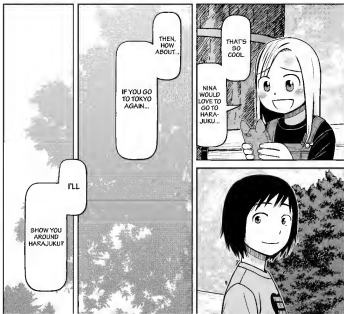


DOESN'T
IT LOOK
FUN?



RIGHT?

THAT
LOOKS
LIKE A
LOT OF
FUN!



THEN,
HOW
ABOUT...

IF YOU GO
TO TOKYO
AGAIN...

THAT'S
SO
COOL

NINA
WOULD
LOVE TO
GO TO
HARA-
JUKU...

I'LL

SHOW YOU
AROUND
HARAJUKU?





OH,
YEAH!!
そうだ!!

AHI



WAIT,
WHAT?

NO JUST
THINKING
ABOUT IT,
OR SEEING
WHAT YOU
CAN DO,
OKAY?



BAMA-
CHAN,

THAT'D
DEFINITELY
A PROMISE,
OKAY?

OKAY..

I WAS
ACTUALLY
HALF-JOKING
BUT SHE
APPARENTLY
THOUGHT I
WAS BEING
SERIOUS?

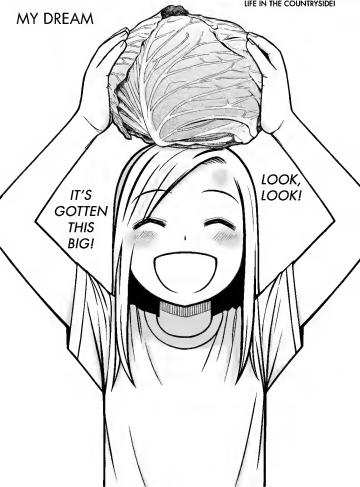


NOW THERE'S ANOTHER EXCITING PROMISE IN STORE...

CHAPTER 98

MY DREAM

AN 11-YEAR-OLD NIECE AND HER
28-YEAR-OLD UNCLE LEAD A RELAXING
LIFE IN THE COUNTRYSIDE!



IT'S
GOTTEN
THIS
BIG!

LOOK,
LOOK!

THE SEA OF CABBAGE THAT FILLS UP THE COUNTRYSIDE
HAS GROWN SPLENDIDLY!







IT'S
SO
BIG!



YEAH.

SHUTARO,
DO YOU
HAVE
YOUR
SMART-
PHONE?



SURE.

TAKE A
PICTURE
SO NINA
CAN
SEND
IT TO
MAMA.

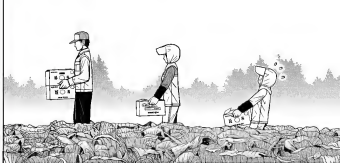


AND IT'S
HEAVY.

RIGHT?

THE FACT
THAT IT'S
HEAVY IS
PROOF THAT
THERE'S
PLENTY OF
GOODNESS
INSIDE!

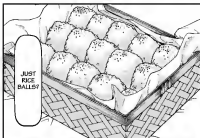








トモエさん
えっへん
TEHE.
YOU'RE SO
AMAZING,
TOMOE.



JUST
RICE
BALLS?



HUH?



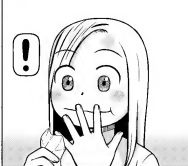
WELL, I
BROUGHT
A FEW
SIDE
DISHES,
BUT...

WHAT
ABOUT
THE SIDE
DISHES?





SO
GOOD!



!



YEP, AND
IT'S ALSO
GOT A BIT
OF SUGAR
AND CHILI
PEPPER.

うまい

IT'S
GOOD!

DOES
THIS
SAUCE

HAVE
MAYONNAISE
AND MISO
IN IT?

うまい

IT'S
GOOD!

うまい

IT'S
GOOD!



RIGHT?

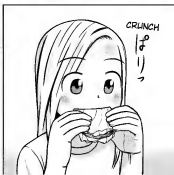
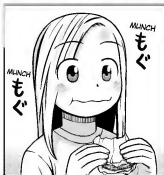
IT'S
REALLY
FRESH
AND
CRISP.

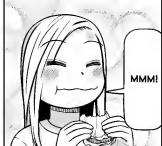
IT'S SO
GOOD!

HOW
DOES THE
CABBAGE
YOU
HARVESTED
YOURSELF
TASTE,
NINA-CHAN?

HEH.









HEHE.



SHEESH,
SHE'S RIDICU-
LOUS.

NO, YOU
WONT!

JEEZI!



HUH?

I AM?

WHY ARE
YOU SMIRKING?

SOME...



HUH?

IF I'D BE
HARVESTING
CABBAGE
TOGETHER
WITH HER
LIKE THIS...

I WAS JUST
WONDERING
IF I HAD A
DAUGHTER
AROUND
THE SAME
AGE AS NINA.



YOU
SEE...



YEAH.

I GUESS
WE DID
TALK
ABOUT
THAT.



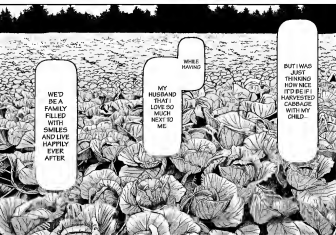
DO YOU
RECALL

IN HIGH
SCHOOL
WHEN YOU
ASKED ME
WHAT MY
DREAMS
FOR THE
FUTURE
WERE?



I STILL
DIDN'T
HAVE ANY
IDEAS...

AT THE
TIME...



WE'D
BE A
FAMILY
FILLED
WITH
SMILES
AND LIVE
HAPPILY
EVER
AFTER.

MY
HUSBAND
THAT I
LOVE SO
MUCH
NEXT TO
ME

WHEE
HAWING

BUT I WAS
JUST
THINKING
HOW NICE
IT'D BE IF I
HARVESTED
CABBAGE
WITH MY
CHILD—



THAT'S
MY
CURRENT
DREAM.







I'M
NEVER
GOING
TO BE
ABLE TO
LEAVE
THIS
PLACE.



HUH?



TOMOE!

NINA
WANTS
SOME
BARLEY
TEA!



YOU
GUYS
ARE
ACTING
SUSPI-
CIOUS!

R-RIGHT..

HUH?

NOPE.
NOTHING
HAPPENED

DID
SOME-
THING
HAPPEN?

TOMOE'S GENTLE DREAM WARMS SHUTARO'S HEART...

